

Use of analgesics and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in the emergency room: Therapeutic indications and precautions

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Analgesics and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are widely used in emergency rooms due to their efficacy in pain relief and inflammation reduction. These medications play a crucial role in managing various acute conditions, including trauma, musculoskeletal pain, and inflammation. However, indiscriminate use without proper precautions can result in significant adverse effects, especially in patients with pre-existing comorbidities. Therefore, it is imperative for healthcare professionals to understand the specific indications and associated precautions of NSAIDs use in emergency settings. **OBJECTIVE:** This study aims to review and synthesize recent literature on the indications and precautions of NSAIDs use in the emergency room, highlighting therapeutic benefits and potential risks associated with these drugs. **METHODOLOGY:** An integrative review was conducted using the search terms "NSAIDs," "analgesics," "emergency room," and "precautions" in SCIELO and PubMed databases, focusing on articles published in the last five years in Brazil. Initially, 55 articles were identified, and 30 were selected for detailed analysis based on relevance and contribution to the topic. **RESULTS:** The main NSAIDs used in the emergency room include ibuprofen, diclofenac, and ketorolac. Ibuprofen is widely used due to its relatively favorable safety profile and effectiveness in managing pain and inflammation. Diclofenac, known for its potent anti-inflammatory action, is indicated for severe pain but should be used cautiously in patients with a history of cardiovascular diseases. Ketorolac is often used for managing moderate to severe acute pain, especially after surgical procedures, due to its potent analgesic effect. The primary precautions in NSAIDs use include monitoring renal and hepatic functions, evaluating gastrointestinal and cardiovascular risks, and considering drug interactions. Patients with a history of peptic ulcer, renal insufficiency, or heart disease should be carefully assessed before NSAIDs administration. **CONCLUSIONS:** Appropriate use of NSAIDs in the emergency room can provide significant pain and inflammation relief, improving patients' quality of life. However, healthcare professionals must adopt a cautious approach, considering specific indications and necessary precautions to minimize the risk of adverse effects. Continuous education and updates on NSAIDs' safety profiles are essential for safe and effective clinical practice.

Keywords: NSAIDs, Analgesics, Emergency room, Precautions.

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